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## **Sen. Bishop to serve on Jobs Fund oversight committee**

**LANSING** — Protecting taxpayer money and ensuring it is prudently spent will be the chief task of a legislative committee announced today that will oversee the state's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jobs Fund, said Sen. Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, who will serve on the panel.

Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema and House Speaker Craig DeRoche today announced that the committee would take extra precautions to ensure that the fund is free from political influence. The fund was created to help diversify Michigan's economy and encourage job growth.

"Michigan taxpayers and job creators need to be sure that the billion dollars set aside to improve our state's economy is spent wisely and without political taint," Bishop said. "The Jobs Fund is to encourage job creation and expand the long-term health of Michigan's economy and not to reward political insiders."

Sikkema, R-Wyoming, agreed that ensuring confidence in the process is vital to the success of the program.

"There is a lot of money invested in this idea and while a number of safeguards were put in place when the legislation was written, everyone will feel more comfortable if there is additional oversight of the fund's activities," said Sikkema, R-Wyoming. "This process needs to be free of even the slightest perception of being manipulated."

The bipartisan, bicameral committee will be formed under a Senate concurrent resolution and House concurrent resolution, which will be introduced soon.

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